

Andreotti sees unique chance for peace

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti sounded out Gulf officials and Islamic leaders Sunday to boost peace negotiations in the Middle East. Andreotti met separately with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, Foreign Minister Yousef Bin Alawi of Oman, and Abdullah Bishara, secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The six-nation council recently bolstered U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative by agreeing to send Bishara to proposed international peace talks between Israel and Arab states. Details of the meetings Sunday were not disclosed. But in a message to the Islamic conference, Andreotti expressed hope that the 12-nation European Community could act as a "balancing" party in the peace process. "The international community must exploit all the positive factors that can help find the just and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict," said the message to Hamed Al Gabid, the group's secretary general. The Islamic Conference is an umbrella group of 45 Muslim nations. The text of the message was released at its headquarters in Jeddah.

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Israelis bomb Shi'ite village

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — A Shi'ite Muslim village came under sustained tank fire from Israel's self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon Sunday shortly after a pro-Israeli militia patrol was ambushed. Police said six people were wounded. A police spokesman said a patrol of the South Lebanon Army militia was raked by gunfire on a dirt road between the villages of Shakra and Houla inside the security zone at around midday (0900 GMT). One SLA militiaman was seriously wounded in the ambush. He was flown by Israeli military for treatment. Houla is inside the enclave that Israel occupies as a buffer against cross-border raids into its northern territory. Shakra is located about 50 metres westward inside the area of operations of the Israeli battalion of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon. The spokesman said 80 rounds of tank fire poured on Shakra from the Israeli-held enclave during the four-hour bombardment, which was unleashed minutes after the ambush, wounding five villagers. In Beirut, Hezbollah, or Party of God, said in a communiqué its guerrillas staged the ambush and claimed four SLA militiamen were killed and "many others wounded." But police in Tyre and security sources close to UNIFIL said only one SLA militiaman was wounded.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Assad, Mubarak discuss Mideast

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad and Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak discussed Middle East developments by telephone on Sunday, presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said. Assad earlier received a message from U.S. President George Bush believed to deal with Washington's effort to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference. Assad met an Italian parliamentary delegation led by senator Mikaili Akeil, chief of the foreign affairs committee, on Sunday. Officials said the president reiterated Syria's position "welcoming any effective European role in efforts to establish a just peace on the basis of U.N. resolutions."

Arafat warned Gandhi of plot

LONDON (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat warned former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of a plot to kill him a month ago, the British newspaper Observer reported on Sunday. It quoted Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar as saying Arafat had warned Gandhi of a conspiracy against his life. Shekhar, who had met Arafat at Gandhi's funeral, said: "He told me of the warning when he came to pay his condolences. Unfortunately it was not the time or place to discuss the matter in detail."

Turkey, Iraq to resume direct talks

ANKARA (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz will visit Turkey for diplomatic talks this month, President Turgut Ozal told an opposition political leader on Sunday. It will be Iraq's highest-level contact with its enemies since the Gulf war. Turkey, a member of the NATO alliance, did not send troops to the reconquest of Kuwait but allowed U.S. planes to bomb Iraq from its bases. Bulent Ecevit, a former prime minister who leads the Democratic Left Party, met Ozal on Sunday and told the semi-official Anatolian news agency: "I have learned from the president that Tareq Aziz has been invited ... This will allow a first step in reviving relations with Iraq."

Iraq writes off utility bills

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqis, whose public utilities were cut off by Gulf war bombing, were told on Sunday they will not have to pay bills for past 4½ months. A decree signed by President Saddam Hussein cancelled all water, electricity and telephone charges between January 17, when U.S. and allied planes began to attack Iraq, and June 1. Many Iraqis did not receive electricity until April. Most telephones in the country still do not work between districts.

175,000 pilgrims so far

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — More than 175,000 Muslim pilgrims have already arrived in Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj to the holiest Islamic shrines, according to official statistics released Saturday. The statistics showed that 164,796 have flown, 9,001 came by sea and 1,459 by land. Around 2 million Muslims converge from around the world for the annual rites at Mecca, the birthplace of Prophet Mohammad, and Medina, which houses the tomb of the founder of Islam.

Germany, Iran sign major agreements

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran and Germany have signed letters of understanding outlining extensive German help in developing ports, power plants, mines and metals, the Islamic Republic news agency reported Sunday. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the agreements were signed by Iran's minister of mines and metals, Mohammad Hossein Mabrouchi, who returned Sunday from a one-week visit to Bonn. During his visit, he met with German Minister of Economy and Industry Jürgen W. Mollenhau and the heads of several large German firms. IRNA said.

Egypt wants high-tech weapons Cheney: U.S. won't pressure Mideast parties into peace

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said Sunday that the United States will not pressure Israel or Arab states into starting Middle East peace talks by cutting off arms supplies or any other threats.

Cheney said that the United States remained committed to ending the Arab-Israeli conflict but warned that the process will require "great tenacity and determination and may need a lot of time."

In response to a question about why the United States did not pressure Israel to be more flexible on peace talks, Cheney told members of the American Chamber of Commerce at a working

breakfast: "For us to be in the business of threatening our Israeli friends with arms cutoff for example in order to get them to do something in the diplomatic arena, I think it would be counterproductive. I would think if we would do that with respect to our Egyptian friends, it would be counterproductive."

Cheney said that America's allies in the region like Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia were "very proud people. They do not respond to threats or pressure."

Cheney flew to Cairo Friday from Israel where he announced increased military aid to the Jewish state.

Informed sources who declined to be further identified have said that Egypt has asked for more U.S. F-16 warplanes, tanks, armed personnel carriers, Apache helicopters and artillery. A U.S. official who also spoke on condition he not be named said that no extra military aid was immediately forthcoming.

"We believe the process of encouraging negotiations and beginning discussions on regional arms controls, the process of satisfying legitimate security requirements of our friends in the region, will create an environment in which confidence does exist," Cheney said.

New cyclone hits Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — A raging cyclone driving huge waves hit southern Bangladesh on Sunday and government officials said they expected a high death toll.

"We are sure that in a cyclone like this, people die by the hundreds," an official from the coastal area of Bholia told Reuters minutes before telephone lines snapped.

Winds of 80 mph (130 kph) and four-metre (13-foot) waves ravaged the districts of Bholia, Panukhali and Cox's Bazar for three hours.

Relief officials in Dhaka said they had four confirmed deaths in Bholia but expected the toll to increase when reports from remote areas were available.

"It has left a trail of death and destruction," said relief official Mohammad Azharuddin, but he could not give details.

The new storm aggravated the woes of survivors of an April 29

cyclone by uprooting thousands of rebuilt homes and washing away belongings.

"They are back to square one as far as their misery is concerned," said Omar Faruq, relief coordinator in Cox's Bazar.

Azharuddin said thousands of people huddled in cyclone shelters but many had defied warnings and stayed home.

Commander Mike Norman of the Royal Navy, coordinating the British relief mission in Bangladesh, said his team had already returned to work.

"Our first priority is relief operations. Recovery of the helicopter will come second," he said.

Three hundred U.S. army personnel, supported by the supply ship St. Louis, were helping rebuild homes for victims of the April cyclone and inoculating people against water-borne diseases.

He said helicopters that flew safety in Dhaka as the new cyclone

Iran plays up alleged Iraqi violations

IRAN-IRAQ BORDER (R) — Iran, apparently surprised by the survival of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, has begun playing up alleged Iraqi border violations including the shelling of Kurdish refugees inside Iranian territory.

Although some of the incidents have already been reported to United Nations officials responsible for monitoring the border, Iran for the first time took foreign journalists to the scene of one incident in which it says up to 60 Kurds were killed.

A senior Iranian army officer gave a clue to official thinking when he explained why Iran was now giving major publicity to a seven-week-old incident.

Brigadier-General Zabiollah Oskouei, acting commander of an unidentified army division in the area, told reporters Tehran had expected worldwide condemnation of President Saddam for his invasion of Kuwait last August to lead to his overthrow.

"When we saw that all the world knows the real face of Saddam Hussein, we thought he would be toppled," he said. "But now we see he is still in power and think it necessary to reveal Saddam's actions."

Iran has long denounced the Iraqi leader, who portrays himself as pious Muslim, as a tyrant and atheist, and bitterly criticised the West for supporting him up until his invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq recently publicised what it said was an Iranian border violation near the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

In the incident publicised by Iran, Iraqi troops stormed an Iranian border post 26 kilometres northeast of the ruined border town of Qasr-E-Shirin, Iranian Revolutionary Guards said.

They called friendly relations with Iraqi troops they had only reported four recent instances to the Tehran office of the U.N. Border Monitoring Group (Unimog), but the violations had persisted.

The incident described to the foreign journalists occurred on April 13. Its victims were Kurds fleeing a Baghdad crackdown after the first time took foreign journalists to the scene of one incident in which it says up to 60 Kurds were killed.

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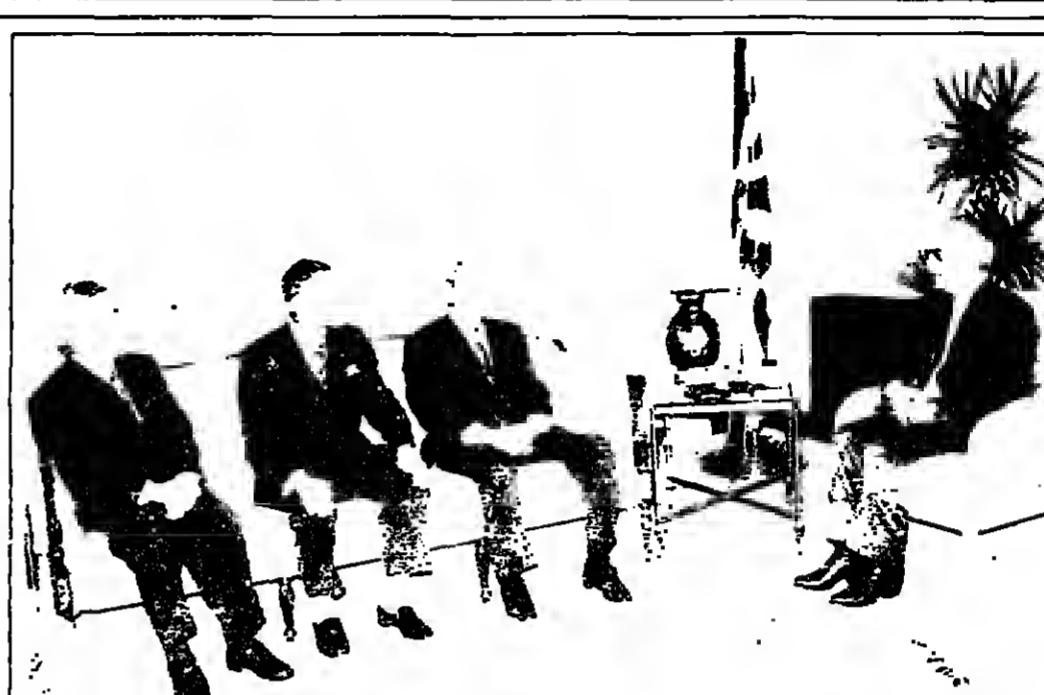
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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday receives a Japanese parliamentary delegation (Petra photo)

King receives Japanese delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday

discussed with a visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation. Arab-Japanese parliamentary relations and means of enhancing bilateral ties. The Japanese delegation was headed by Mr. Yushio Kibi. The discussions were attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's military secretary Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Tadayuki Nonoyama.

Also Sunday His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received the delegation

and discussed with them bilateral relations. Prince Hassan

praised Jordanian-Japanese friendship, and voiced hope that the delegation would have the chance to get first hand information on the latest political and social developments in the Middle East region. The Crown Prince stressed the importance of Asia in the maintenance of world security and economic stability. He explained Jordan's perception of a permanent and stable Middle East, saying that such a stability hinged on the right utilisation of the region's resources, an end to arms race and

addressing the problem of indebtedness.

Prince Hassan, noted one of the major challenges for any Arab-Israeli peace process is the demographic dimension. The Crown Prince criticised the massive immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Ethiopia to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, and called for the use of standard criteria when dealing with problems of the region. Mr. Kibi emphasised that the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party was doing its best to help achieve a peaceful solution to the Mideast conflicts.

Bank issued Visa cards to the dead, witness tells court

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

trials at the Military Court said

Sunday.

AMMAN — High ranking officials at the now dissolved Petra Bank used to issue Visa (credit) cards to dead people or made-up persons in the course of conducting their embezzlements, witness said.

Witness Yousef Al Salem said

that Visa cards were already signed and filled except for the dead person's name which were later inserted.

Al Salem told the court the secret code for the bank's safe was placed solely under the control of one woman, in violation of

(Continued on page 5)

City goes into indefinite strike Hamas, Fateh battle in Nablus

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

A gunbattle between rival Palestinian groups erupted in the heart of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday. Residents said several youths were killed.

Palestinians said it was the most serious fighting between rival groups of Palestinians during the 42 months of their revolt against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

They said the fight started when members of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas attacked an activist of Fateh, the largest group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The youth, Amar Masrui, shot

and wounded by ensuing gunfire, according to residents who said the battle had

(Continued on page 5)

Rahim warns of Israeli designs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Palestine

Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim Sunday warned Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories of Israeli attempts to split and divide the Palestinian people and weaken the uprising. It is a statement to Jordan Television, Abdul Rahim called on the Palestinians under the

two groups were wounded by

Israeli occupation to be aware of such Israeli attempts, and to work towards enhancing national unity. He said that the Unified Leadership of Uprisings took a number of decisions that aim at forging unity, and foiling Israeli attempts to fuel tribal feuds among Palestinians.

The earlier meeting in May in Kuwait coincided with the Gulf tour of U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney whose country led Operation Desert Storm and has pledged to support the GCC countries against any further threats after the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion. Cheney is back in the Middle East though this time he is not visiting the Gulf states. Cheney has visited Egypt, the leading Arab military power on the side of the GCC states.

The GCC group Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. Though rich in oil, they have only a modest ability to cope with external military threats.

Also on the agenda of the GCC foreign ministers, according to official statements, are efforts to bolster the U.S.-led attempt to arrange an Arab-Israeli peace parley and a call by President George Bush for arms control in the Middle East. GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, in statements to the Oman news agency, said that Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti was on a tour of the GCC to promote the U.S. peace initiative. Bishara met with Andreotti earlier in the day while the Italian leader was in Saudi Arabia on the first leg of his tour.

Bishara is to represent the GCC alliance at the U.S.-proposed Arab-Israeli parley as an observer. Bishara also said that the GCC ministers would discuss the broadening of political and trade ties between the GCC and the 12-nation European Community, and GCC relations with the Persian state of Iran.

Al Ra'i turns 20, celebrates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arabic

language daily Al Ra'i Sunday turned 20 years old. The newspaper has through the hard work of its staff and their dedication developed into Jordan's leading daily, despite many difficulties over the years.

The Jordan Press Foundation, which owns Al Ra'i and its sister the Jordan Times, celebrated the occasion by hosting a luncheon party at Al Hussein Youth City attended by ministers, deputies, senior government officials, writers, scholars and journalists.

Addressing the party, Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed said that Al Ra'i was committed to the causes of the nation and the country. Al Ra'i, he said, had succeeded throughout its long march in strengthening the expression of free opinion and had taken courageous stands on all issues

pertaining to the nation and the region.

Mr. Al Kayed, who in 1988 was replaced by a government decree, said Al Ra'i is the cause of every Jordanian and Arab. He said the newspaper will remain loyal to the mission of journalism, and will always strive to safeguard freedoms and respect the people's rights.

Mr. Al Kayed (best known among his colleagues as Abu Azmi) added that the paper would carry out its mission objectively and honestly.

The newspaper will not side with any particular group, party or faction, Mr. Al Kayed pledged.

A number of writers lauded the newspaper for its firm stands over Jordanian and pan-Arab issues. The Editor in Chief of the Al Dustour daily, Mr. Mahmoud Al Sharif said that Al Ra'i's 20th birthday was a dear occasion that called

upon him to salute

Iraq objects to 30% reparations idea

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said a U.N. proposal to deduct up to 30 per cent of Iraq's oil revenues to pay for Gulf war reparations was a deliberate attempt to harm the Iraqi people and hold up economic reconstruction.

Information Minister Hamed Yousef Hammadi, in a statement late Saturday, said the 30 per cent proposal did not take into account the damage inflicted on Iraq during the Gulf war and the civil unrest that followed.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who made the proposal, had based his calcula-

tions on Iraq's civilian budget during the 1980s, when military spending for the war with Iran consumed most of the government budget, he added.

"By ignoring these facts, Mr. de Cuellar seeks to do deliberate damage to the Iraqi people and to the reconstruction of its economy," he said.

The U.N. secretary-general announced Friday that Iraq would have to pay no more than 30 per cent of its oil revenues, which he estimated would still leave Baghdad with enough

money to service its foreign debt, feed its people and rebuild its devastated economy.

The actual percentage Iraq will pay will be set later by the U.N. Compensation Commission's governing council, made up of all 15 states of the Security Council.

A European economic expert said he thought this council would set the initial rate lower than 30 per cent because the secretary general's estimates were based on 1993 projections.

The task of settling damages claimed by others following Iraq's

Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait will be daunting. They include Kuwait claims estimated at about \$60 billion, Saudi Arabia's costs for cleaning up pollution in the Gulf and the claims of thousands of workers who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on paying reparations, a request ignored by the Security Council.

There is no sign that the United States, backed by Britain, is willing to let any oil flow out of Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein is in power.

Aziz to visit Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey has invited Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz for a two-day official visit starting June 12, it was disclosed here Sunday.

The disclosure was made by left-wing opposition politician Bulent Ecevit after briefing President Turgut Ozal on his recent visit to Baghdad. While in Baghdad he interviewed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Aziz for a Turkish newspaper. Ecevit twice urged social democratic govern-

ments in 1970s.

After talking with the Iraqi leaders late last month, Ecevit quoted President Saddam Hussein as calling for an end to the international sanctions against his country and voicing eagerness for the normalization of ties with Turkey.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August, Turkey blocked Iraqi oil exports by shutting off a pipeline and allowed U.S. warplanes to bomb Iraq from a Turkish air base during the Gulf war.

Up to 1.5 million barrels of oil

can be pumped daily through the pipelines, which are the only outlet for Iraqi exports since the destruction of a pipeline to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

Turkish and Iraqi officials agreed last month to ready the 1,000-kilometer twin pipelines from Kirkuk to a Turkish port for the resumption of Iraqi oil exports, but were frustrated when the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee turned down Baghdad's request for limited exports to pay for its food imports.

The rebel force entered the

Ethiopian capital early Tuesday as peace talks were under way in London between the insurgents and a caretaker government left behind by Mengistu, who fled days earlier.

The Ethiopian People's Re-

volutionary Democratic Front

said Saturday it was holding for

former Prime Minister Fikre-

Selassie Wogderess, according to

a broadcast monitored in London by the British Broadcasting Corp.

The group claimed Fikre-

Selassie had "committed many

atrocities as the right hand of that

(the former) government."

The one-time air force

officer retired as Mengistu's no. 2 man in

November 1989 because of undi-

closed health problems. He had

held the post since 1987, and

before that was one of Mengistu's

three senior ministers.

Fikre-Selassie, who is in his

early fifties, was a member with

Mengistu of the clique of officers

who overthrew Emperor Haile

Selassie in 1971.

Mengistu, who fled Ethiopia

ahead of advancing rebels, is now

living in Zimbabwe.

The Tigrayan-dominated

democratic front, which had

gained members of Mengistu's

government until Friday to sur-

render, said it would give them

no later than July 1.

"In the meantime, our top

priority is to establish law and

order in Addis Ababa and other

parts of the country to facilitate

relief efforts" for an estimated 7

million victims of drought and

war in Ethiopia, he said.

Ethiopian rebels say

former premier surrenders

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)

— A former prime minister who served under deposed dictator Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam has surrendered to the rebels who have taken over the country, and that of his advisers.

Meanwhile, Meles Zenawi,

chairman of the democratic front, said Saturday that the decision to march on the capital "to restore law and order" was entirely his

and that of his advisers.

General Cohen, the U.S. assis-

tant secretary of state who

chaired the talks, has been widely

criticized both in Ethiopia and

elsewhere for appearing to con-

done the rebel takeover.

Hundreds of people died in the

fighting following the takeover

Tuesday. The red Cross said an

ammunition dump blew up, and

at least 300 people were killed in

the explosion alone. Hundreds of

others — military and civilian —

died in other fighting.

Also Saturday, an influential

group of Ethiopian academics ac-

cused the United States of

orchestrating a "backdoor deal"

that led to the rebel takeover.

The commentary came in an

open letter signed by 10 Universi-

ty of Addis Ababa professors

calling themselves the Commit-

tee for Peace and Reconciliation

in Ethiopia.

Zenawi, however, said his

army would march on the

capital "with or without" U.S.

consent.

The London conference ended

with a statement saying Zenawi's

rebels would assume temporary

control of the Ethiopian govern-

ment pending formation of a

broad-based transitional govern-

ment not later than July 1.

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the world."

But diplomats here say most of

the estimated 300 tonnes of opium

produced in Iran is consumed here, and that the country has an estimated 2 million addicts.

Iranian officials themselves

claim they are gaining the upper

hand in an anti-drug war.

Chaotic Afghanistan aggravates drug problem for Iran

TEHRAN (AP) — The civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan has complicated Iran's crackdown on drugs, given added incentive to help end the long conflict, according to diplomats here.

"The Iranians are worried about the drug problem in their country," said an Asian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There is a general feeling that the problem won't begin to be solved until the Afghan issue is settled."

Chaos in Afghanistan has allowed drug growers and smugglers to operate with near impunity, creating a huge supply of narcotics on Iran's eastern border.

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The show will be held under

UAE to host major defense exhibition

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The chamber of commerce and industry signed

and agreement Saturday with the London-based Fairs and Exhibition Ltd. Allowing this emirate to host its first-ever defence exhibition.

The international defense exhibition, IDX'93, is scheduled for Feb. 14-18, 1993, the chamber said.

Jumaa Ahmed Al Salami, acting director of the chamber who signed the agreement, stressed to reporters that the exhibition is not connected nor would it

"contravene" with U.S. President George Bush's call for arms control in the Middle East.

"Regional security means commercial confidence, which in turn, leads to a better quality of life and prosperity for all," he said.

The same company is planning an air defence exhibition in neighbouring Dubai.

Salami said the show will feature the latest technology

Home News

Brotherhood urges holy war to 'liberate Palestine'

AMMAN (AP) — The Muslim Brotherhood, on Sunday urged Arabs and Muslims to wage holy war against Israel to liberate Palestine.

In a statement published in the Arabic language daily Al Dusour, the Brotherhood's spiritual leader Hamed Abu Al Nasr, who is also the general guide of the group, also rejected all peaceful solutions to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The group is the largest and most organised political party in the Kingdom, with 22 seats in the 80-member Parliament and roughly a dozen sympathisers among independents.

The party also has links with Islamic groups in other Arab countries and in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza

Strip.

"We reiterate that ... Jihad is the only way to liberate our lands and ourselves from the grip of the (Israeli) enemy," Abu Al Nasr said, referring to Jewish state as well as territories Israel captured from Arabs during the 1967 Middle East war.

"Our struggle with the Zionist entity is an ideological one. (The Zionists) aim at the existence of the Muslim nation," he said.

Abu Al Nasr urged Arab rulers to turn down current diplomatic efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict peacefully.

The Brotherhood advocates the elimination of the Jewish

"All the current political initiatives proposed on the Arab and international arenas to solve the Palestinian problem are aimed at serving long-term strategies of the Zionist entity and liquidating the Palestinian question," Abu Al Nasr said.

"Therefore, we strongly reject these initiatives and urge Arab and Muslim rulers to do the same," he said.

The statement said that abandoning Palestine was a treason, "not only of the nation but also of God who warned against selling out the land and the holy places."

The statement added that neither Palestinians nor any Arab leader have the right to determine the destiny of Palestine.

which is the property of all Muslims.

The statement called on Muslims and Arabs to heal their wounds and live up to the level of challenges facing them. It further called on the Muslim nation to unite in the face of the enemies, who seek to subliterate the Islamic and Arab identity, distort the Islamic religion and exhaust their powers and capacities."

The Muslim Brotherhood group warned against establishing relations with the Zionist enemy or concluding any deals with them, saying that the establishment of any such relations with Israel will have grave reflections on the future of the nation and its struggle with the Zionist enemy.

Prince Hassan lauds tae kwon do team, urges strenuous training for future wins

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Sunday congratulated the Jordanian youth and expect more successes at Arab, Asian and international competitions. He said further constant training was required if Jordan was to attain successes in future games.

He said that further efforts and serious preparatory work was needed if Jordan was to take part in the coming Barcelona Olympic

for their country.

Jordan came second in the international tae kwon do competition in which 16 countries took part with Mohammad Al Zoubi winning the gold medal.

The other team members, Hussein Makki, Yousef Abu Zeid, Ammar Fahd and Tawfiq Nuweiser won bronze medals at the competition.

CAEU chief calls for unity

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim Sunday issued a statement calling on Arab countries to exert serious efforts towards enhancing the role of pan-Arab institutions, especially those dealing with economic affairs, in order to boost inter-Arab cooperation.

"It is incumbent on us, Arabs, at this critical stage, to adhere to the objectives and concepts of the Arab organisation, operating under the umbrella of the Arab League so that we can overcome all weaknesses and causes of divisions and embark on a new phase of higher national interest above all other considerations," said Mr. Ibrahim.

The report said that the Israeli authorities were maintaining their repressive measures against the Arab citizens in different forms including mass arrests, the imposition of heavy taxes, the uprooting of Arab-owned trees, the closure of schools and universities and house arrests of prominent Palestinian activists.

Since the start of the intifada, the Israelis demolished 391 homes in the two areas and permanently closed 261 homes, the report said.

Also during April, it said, 32 schools were closed for two successive weeks.

Ibrahim in a statement Sunday, on the eve of CEAU's 27th anniversary.

The Arab World, he said, is currently facing serious challenges that can only be confronted through collective action and unified stand socially, politically and economically.

He said that since its establishment, the CEAU witnessed major achievements despite the obstacles and the differences among the Arab countries.

Mr. Ibrahim said that Arab organisations could serve as a sound basis for unity among the Arabs, "but it is regrettable to say that political decisions had more often than not disrupted joint Arab action."

Jordan, Iraq to discuss parliamentary issues, ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat leaves for Baghdad Monday on an official visit, at the invitation of the Iraqi parliament, to discuss parliamentary affairs and cooperation between the two countries.

In a statement on the eve of the visit, Dr. Arabiyat said that the visit was designed to help Arab countries coordinate their stands and bolster solidarity among them as well as help the current political and economic embargo imposed on Iraq.

The delegation members will also study the situation in Iraq and discuss means of confronting the hostile designs of dismembering the Arab countries," said Dr. Arabiyat.

Since the start of the Gulf crisis, Dr. Arabiyat said, Jordan has been urging the Arabs to find peaceful means of settling differences between Kuwait and Iraq and repeated the same call during an Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) meeting held recently in Libya. Dr. Arabiyat said that the Arab parliamentarians adopted a unified stand at the APU meeting.



Abdul Latif Arabiyat

voicing total support for Iraq and for solidarity among Arab states.

Dr. Arabiyat expressed hope that the visit would pave the ground for other meetings among Arab countries, especially through APU, to serve Arab interests.

Dr. Arabiyat said he would hold talks with Iraqi officials on parliamentary affairs, on opening of communication between Iraq and the Arab countries and on bilateral relations.

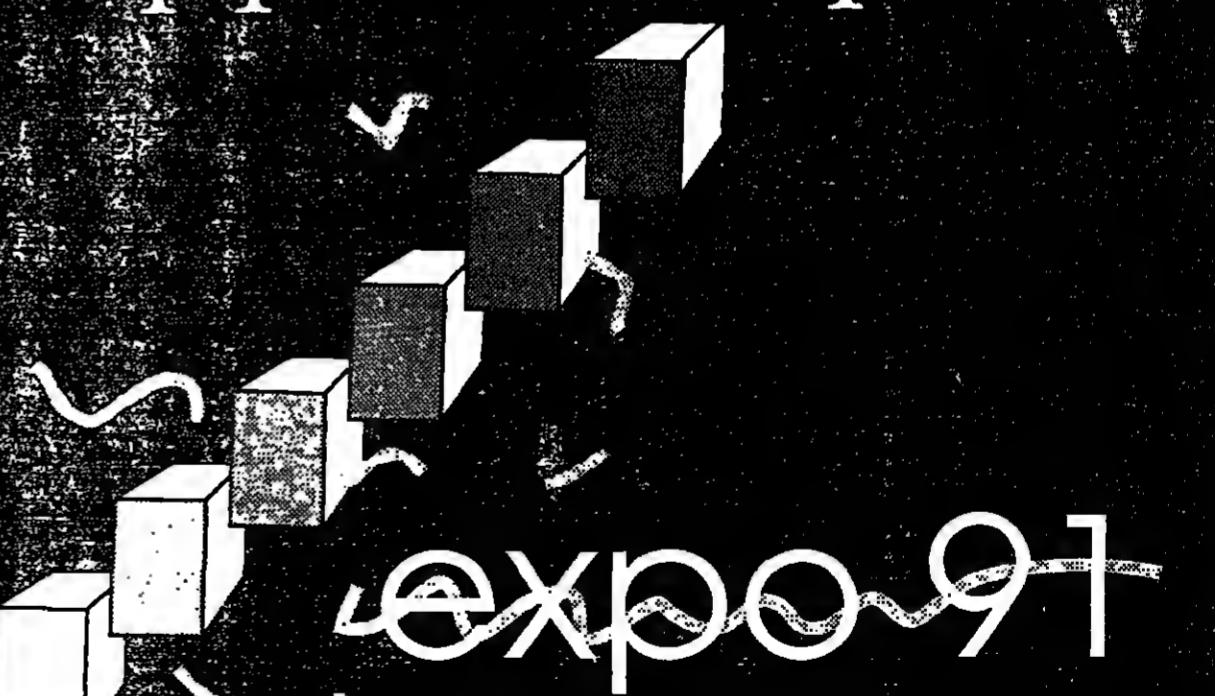
Innab, Altsen discuss Jewish immigration

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Ahmad Innab Sunday discussed with Harold Altsen, North Liverpool's candidate for the House of Commons elections, the Israeli expansionist policy in the occupied Arab territories and the Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Mr. Innab and Mr. Altsen, stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, in accordance with international resolutions, and called for enhancing Jordanian-British relations.

The meeting was attended by the Committee's Rapporteur Issac Madanat and the committee's member Sa'd Haddadin.

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Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — June 10 marks the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day in Jordan and will be observed as a public holiday.

public institutions would remain closed on that day in commemoration of the anniversary.

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ICRC relief convoy in Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 36th International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) convoy of relief supplies left Amman for Baghdad on May 30, 1991. To date, over 7,800 metric tonnes of relief supplies have been transported to Iraq, using over 500 trucks since the first convoy at the beginning of March.

Amongst the relief supplies transported so far are the following: 5,800 metric tonnes (mt) of food, 184 mt of medical supplies, 415 mt of sanitation supplies, 405 mt of fuel, 946 mt of various relief goods (tents, blankets).

The World Food Programme (WFP) has donated over 5,100 mt of food, the rest of the goods and equipment having been donated by various Red Crescent societies.

During the next two months more food and medical supplies are due to arrive in Jordan to be then transported to Iraq for use in the ICRC's distribution programmes throughout the country. Jordan remains the ICRC's most important logistic base for ICRC relief operations in Iraq.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Israel blocks U.N. special mission

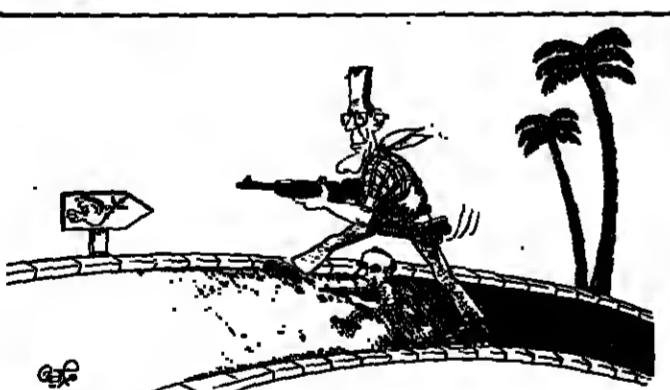
THE U.N. special committee to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories that has just concluded a working visit to Jordan has been trying to conduct its work and carry out its mission since 1968 without ever succeeding in visiting the territories being under examination. This year as in every year for the past 23 years, the committee has contented itself with visiting Jordan, Syria and Egypt in a bid to improvise and gather the necessary information and data on the Israeli violations of the human rights of Palestinians and other Arabs under occupation since 1967.

"We are not able to visit the occupied territories since we have not had positive response from the Israelis," complained the chairman of the committee on Tuesday. "Instead," the chairman continued, "we receive newspaper reports on incidents related to human rights violations." he confirmed that the committee has listened to some 13 witnesses from the West Bank during its three-day fact-finding mission in Jordan.

Although the U.N. General Assembly resolution that created the committee had specifically called on Israel to cooperate fully with and allow it to visit the occupied Arab territories, Israel has been able since the inception of this body to abort the committee's mandate by constantly refusing to facilitate its admission to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. And by consenting to carry out its mission from outside the occupied territories, the committee has created a dangerous precedent that has not been possible to reverse all these 22 years.

One wonders if instead of allowing the committee to conduct its work under the existing absurd conditions, the U.N. General Assembly may not consider making a more determined effort to facilitate the entry of the U.N. mission to the areas that are under scrutiny. The bulk of the information being gathered by the mission members under the prevailing conditions is at best marginal compared to what can be collected in the real field. The Arab governments and the supporters of the Palestinian cause should therefore raise the issue during the next session of the U.N. General Assembly and insist on the full cooperation of Tel Aviv for the carrying out of the mandate of the special committee. The support of Washington and its allies should also be sought in this legitimate endeavour.

Since Israel feels that its human rights record in the West Bank and the other occupied Arab territories is either perfect or near perfect, it has nothing to fear from the visit of the committee. By refusing to cooperate with the three-member body, the Israeli occupying authorities are in effect giving additional credence to the internationally-held view that it is violating every provision in the Fourth Geneva Convention.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Sunday celebrated its 20th anniversary with its Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed pledging in an editorial that the paper will remain faithful to its readers and fully committed to serve the nation. There can be no way of going back or delaying the newspaper's progress and continued improvement specially as the country is entering the last decade of the present century and a new phase of democratic rule, said the editor. He pledged that the daily will continue to serve as a forum for all ideas and the tendencies and thoughts of various groups and individuals, free of all forms of hatred, selfishness and narrow-mindedness. He said that as it has been the practice in the past, the paper will continue to hold supportive or divergent views from those held by prime minister's, Cabinet members and Parliament deputies or other officials in the course of a race to serve the country and the Jordanian citizens and Arabs at large. The editor considered Al Ra'i as a public organ of monitoring and helping to control various developments, and deal with different issues of concern to the public with total frankness and objectivity in a purely constructive manner. The writer said that the newspaper will always serve as an arena where various opinions are put forth and debated and where various writers and citizens can have their say freely, because the Al Ra'i, he said, will remain the rightful property for all citizens.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily dwelt on Washington's plans to disarm the Middle East, and asked why should Israel be exempted from such a plan. The paper said one cannot help expressing astonishment over the U.S. administration's insistence on pursuing double standard policies towards the Middle East. Washington is busy nowadays, bragging about its disarmament plans through the media and official information services at a time when U.S. administration officials announce new arms deals for supplying the Jewish state with rockets and war planes. It said there is no doubt that the U.S. administration is striving to maintain Israel's military superiority over the Arab countries by any possible means; and it is clear that Washington is determined to pursue this strategy.

Weekly Political Pulse

Arab side can be dead right

IF this time around, the Baker initiative is aborted for one reason to another, on balance the Arab side would be the bigger loser. Israel has everything to gain if the ongoing peace initiative comes to naught because this serves its interests best. Ever since time immemorial, Israel benefited from the lack of movement in the search for peace in the Middle East.

By the same token, the Arabs have always been the losers when there was no viable peace process in the Middle East peace market place. So while we may take comfort in rejecting a peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict without an effective U.N. involvement, we must likewise take stock of where this "correct decision" is leading us. Our rejoice may end up short-lived if the demise of the Baker peace initiative is exactly what Israel seeks as a prelude to the expansion of its settlement programme in the Arab territories leading to their annexation.

Continuing Israeli colonisation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights can be best characterised as de facto annexation of these territories. Even Washington is getting exacerbated by Tel Aviv's persistent confrontation of every U.S. peace initiative or a Baker visit to Israel with more and more settlement building. At least on this point, both Arab and non-Arab countries set eye to eye and agree that the Israeli settlement policy is the biggest hurdle in the path of the peace process wherever it is.

From the Arab point of view as long as the Arab population of the occupied territories is kept intact and the creeping movement

of Israelis into those territories is kept at bay, there will always be hope to reprieve the West Bank and the other Arab territories from Israeli designs and manipulations. So the issue of Israeli settlements in Arab lands has got to assume a heightened priority and urgency in the wake of massive Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and elsewhere in the world to beef up the Israeli population. There must be a growing sense of realisation that burgeoning Jewish population will ultimately have no place to go except to overflow to Arab territories in view of the limitation on Israeli territory to accommodate the new floods of Jews. What all this boils down to is that frustrating such an Israeli master plan to evacuate the Arab territories of their indigenous Palestinian population and replace them with new Israeli citizens is a most pressing issue and overriding objective. If there is agreement on this situation, then Arab efforts need to be directed first and foremost to the objective of stopping the colonisation of Arab territories at all costs.

This means accepting a peace formula that can at least halt the creeping de facto annexation of Arab lands. For this limited purpose, one may even entertain accepting interim peace formulas or partial solutions that can put an end to the Israeli colonisation of Arab territories.

As long as there is no semblance of movement in the peace process, the chances are greater that Tel Aviv would accelerate its settlement programme. In other words, as long as the peace process in the Middle East is held in abeyance for whatever

reason, good or bad, there will always be the risk that Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his clique will exploit the non-movement in the peace process to speed up their settlement ambition.

By and large the Arab postures on opportunities for peace in the Middle East have been too academic and grossly legalistic. There is an expression that I had learned a long time ago that pertains to driving habits and is applicable to the politics of the Middle East. It goes like this: One can be right in his driving style as far as the rules of the game are concerned but he can also be "dead right" at the same time for insisting on his or her right of way, etc. The moral of the story is that it is high time that the Arab parties weigh their options when rejecting or accepting any given proposal for peace. When the partition plan for Palestine in 1947 was rejected, no one bothered to inquire about the alternatives. As imperfect as that partition plan was, it was the best available option that the Palestinians could have enjoyed. The same short-sighted approach to peace options was maintained by the Arab parties even though their fingers were burned on all occasions. At the rate things are going in the area, there would not be much to salvage by the end of this decade. Given Israel's well-calculated campaigns to swell the Arab side's population and create new facts on the ground, the Arab side can ill afford the luxury of being too moralistic, academic or legalistic in its search for a temporary solution to the Arab-Israeli conflicts.

Drums of war on Iran-Iraq border

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

ASHRAF CAMP, Iraq — The drums of war are beating on the Iraq-Iran border, where an August 1988 ceasefire looks increasingly fragile.

At eight in the morning, at a parade ground within view of the Iranian plateau, a disciplined army of Iranian exiles is drilling to the rousing music of the Mujahideen Khalq Movement.

"Fire" about the ranks of men and women, Kalashnikovs at their shoulders, at the climax of a fighting song called "Massoud's Order" — after Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi.

The movement's National Liberation Army of Iran does not have the numbers or the weaponry to overthrow the Tehran government but its ambitious talk and recent skirmishes with Iran's Revolutionary Guards suggest that all is not well along the frontier.

U.N. truce observers pulled out of the area last December. Iran and Iraq, which fought for eight years up to 1988, are back at their old practice of subverting their neighbours through dissidents.

Young Iraqi men, tired of wasting years on the front, first against Iran and then to defend Iraqi-occupied Kuwait from U.S. and allied forces, say their worst fear is renewed war with their powerful eastern neighbour.

Diplomats say outright war is unlikely but relations between Baghdad and Tehran are increasingly hostile. Neither side is trying to be conciliatory.

Irqi officials say Iran and the United States have a secret agreement for Iran to complete what Washington failed to do in the Gulf war — overthrow President Saddam Hussein.

Iran openly encouraged Iraq's Shi'ite Muslims to rise up against President Saddam in March, when abortive rebellions swept the Iraq south and Kurdish north.

Tehran has also impounded more than 100 Iraqi warplanes, flown across the border in January.

ary and February, apparently to save them from allied bombing.

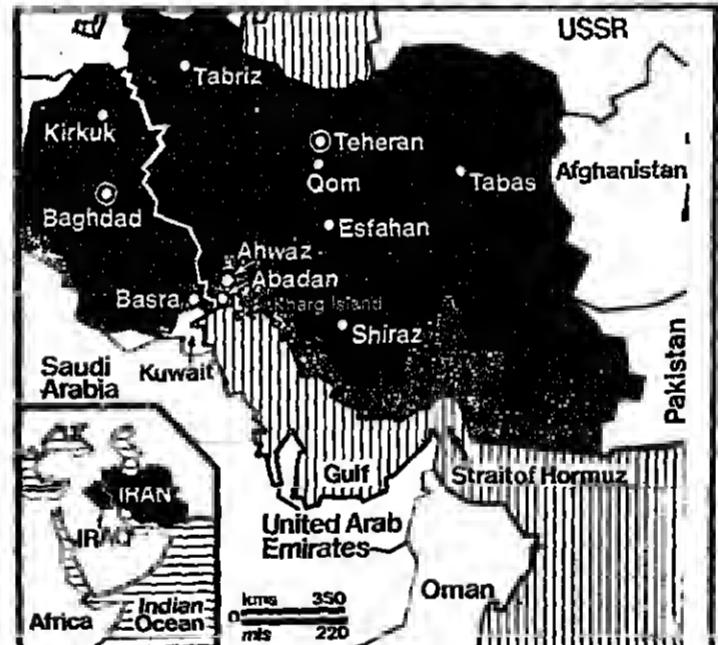
At Ashraf Camp, between Baghdad and the Iranian border, these developments are good news to the Mujahideen Khalq (the people's fighters).

"We have gained much experience in the latest fighting and we are preparing for bigger battles in the future," said operations officer Ali Akbar Anzah.

"Our strategy is a war of liberation to overthrow the Khomeini regime by armed force. We believe we have the capability to destroy their armed forces," added camp commander Hossein Abriashmchi.

Until a series of engagements inside Iraq in March had early April, the Mujahideen had not fought since July 1988, when they advanced deep into Iran along

"Iraqi officials say Iran and the United States have a secret agreement for Iran to complete what Washington failed to do in the Gulf war — overthrow President Saddam Hussein."



Glittering skeletons in Giscard's closet

By Stuart Wavell

IT WAS supposed to be the final word of a scandal that helped to bring down France's last president. But a candid account of the infamous "diamonds affair" by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has reopened the controversy and, some believe, damaged his chances of returning to the Elysée.

The exculpatory version by the 66-year-old French politician, whose new volume of autobiography denies accusations that he pocketed diamond gifts from Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the self-styled emperor and president-for-life of the Central African Republic, was immediately challenged last week by those who originally exposed the imbroglio.

"It's an old song, and Giscard is singing a false note," commented the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné*, which caused a sensation in 1979 by reproducing a letter signed by Bokassa authorising a tray of 30-carat diamonds, valued at an estimated 1m francs (£100,000), to be presented to Giscard.

A recent opinion poll made him the best-placed conservative candidate for the 1995 presidential election. But the candour of his latest memoirs, which raise further questions over the diamonds affair, could rapidly undermine his political rehabilitation.

In his book *The Confrontation*, Giscard, the leader of the con-

servative UDF party, makes the astonishing confession that the attacks on him were so humiliating that he avoided reading political articles for seven years.

More contentious were his claims that the famous "Bokassa letter" had been forged by an accomplice of the African dictator in revenge for the coup d'état that Giscard successfully mounted against him in 1979, and that the value of the diamonds — which he admitted receiving — was a fraction of Le Canard Enchaîné's estimate.

The affair took another unexpected twist last week when the journalist who had obtained the original "Bokassa letter" revealed the identity of his source. Far from being a friend of Bokassa, his informant was a disaffected adviser to the "emperor."

The scene was photographed by the official news agency in the Central African Republic, Pierre Péan claimed in the left-wing daily *Libération*. "After that, each time the adviser went into his boss's office, Bokassa proudly exhibited the photo, saying: 'You see, Giscard d'Estaing is my friend.'

In addition to these contradictions, reviewers have been intrigued by Giscard's reluctance to mention the word "diamonds" in his 56-page chapter on the affair. Explaining this inhibition, Giscard said: "The word is magic. It is a symbol of wealth. It evokes fabulous, unlimited resources."

whereas, he insisted, they were of no great value" and too poorly cut to be mounted in jewellery — certainly not the 30 carats mentioned in the "Bokassa letter."

Elaborating in a television interview, he claimed that Le Canard Enchaîné, which obtained the 1m franc estimate from a jeweller in the Central African Republic, had been confused. The figure was in local francs, reducing the diamonds' value to £2,000.

Giscard insisted that he had been the victim of "a machination, whose authors I know," and announced that he would reveal the full details in the next instalment of his autobiography. This has not quietened speculation, nor has his published list of the 173 diamonds that he admits receiving from Bokassa over a five-year period. The proceeds from their sale, amounting to about £10,000, were divided between humanitarian causes, he reported.

Describing the fateful presentation (his second) at Bokassa's palace, Giscard writes: "At the moment of [my] departure, he took from his desk a small box and some objects wrapped in paper. 'These are souvenirs of this country,' he told me. 'In the box are two cardboard trays containing brilliants. I have created a school at Bangui to teach the cutting of stones. You can see what our pupils are already capable of doing.'

"My cure is now complete," Giscard writes. Many believe that his tribulations have just recommenced — Sunday Times.

Giscard claims that the damning "Bokassa letter" was a fake found by DST secret service agents at the French home of Roger Delpuy, a sympathiser of the disgraced dictator. Delpuy, according to Giscard, had visited Bokassa in exile in the Ivory Coast and obtained his signature on numerous blank pages, which he later filled in.

Pierre Péan's account directly conflicts with this version. The independent journalist, author of a biography of Bokassa, says he obtained the document from Maurice Espinasse, a French civil servant who became Bokassa's closest adviser, and who witnessed the presentation.

Espinasse died in 1989, aged 66. But Péan and Le Canard Enchaîné referred last week to other documents seized from Bokassa's palace by French paratroopers. Their mission, Le Canard Enchaîné claimed, was "to protect the reputation of a president."

The satirical paper enumerated other omissions from Giscard's memoirs: the diamonds that split out his name on his hunting rifle, the "famous" Bokassa offered to Giscard's cousin François, the "marvellous carpets" offered by the Shah of Iran, and a 10-kilo gold ram handed over by the president of the Ivory Coast.

"My cure is now complete," Giscard writes. Many believe that his tribulations have just recommenced — Sunday Times.

A walk for peace

By E. Yaghi

THE Middle East has been the scene of turbulence for over half a century. Peace is an intangible dream that beats in the hearts of millions of Arabs. However, during the Gulf war, the Gulf Peace Team, a group of people from all walks of life and from all over the world, congregated in Iraq with the hopes of preventing the outbreak of armed conflict. Although many members of the original Gulf Peace Team have returned to their various countries of origin, there still remains some dedicated individuals in Amman who are much more aware of the problems characteristic of this area than when they first arrived. These remaining members share a concerned interest in current Middle Eastern events. High on their agenda is to find a solution to the perilous situation in the occupied Arab territories. The office coordinators of the Amman-based Gulf Peace Team are Kathy Kelly and Carl-Erik Pasoson.

Because of their concern, the Gulf Peace Team is undertaking a Peace Walk that will begin in Jerusalem on June 4, 1991. This date will coincide with The International Day For Children As Victims Of War. The walk will last seven days in memory of the 1967 war that began June 5, 1967. Participants of the Peace Walk will come from around the world. The purpose of this endeavour is to gain global attention to encourage peace and justice in the Middle East and to focus international attention on the Palestine problem with the hopes of finally implementing the U.N. resolutions which were passed concerning the protection of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. The Gulf Peace team deplores all violations of human rights as well as the Israeli military occupation of Palestinian land. The Gulf Peace Team hopes to build a viable framework for peace.

Some of the participants in the Peace Walk should have arrived in Jerusalem on June 1 before the event takes place to attend workshops, train for non-violence and to meet with eminent Palestinians such as the lawyer Dr. Jonathan Kuttab and Faisal Husseini. One of the workshops will be a workshop on the intifada and human rights in the occupied territories.

On the first day of the walk, Tuesday, June 4, a witness from the participants will be present at the Israeli Knesset and also a witness will be present at the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem. There will also be a vigil at one of the Israeli prisons where Palestinians are held. The length of the walk will be about 120 kilometres. The participants plan walk from Jerusalem towards Jordan and they will enter Jordan on June 7. On the morning of June 8, they will walk to Salt and on June 9, they will then walk to Amman and arrive here on June 10.

The ninth convoy of medical relief supplies was sent on May 28 to Iraq with some members of the Gulf Peace Team as well as other people representing the United States and Germany. The cost of the medical supplies on the convoy is close to \$8,000. An American group called the Caravan of Solidarity and Resistance For an Awareness of Iraqi suffering raised \$15,000 to be divided between citizens of Iraq and the Gaza Strip. Other groups represented on the convoy are: The National Assembly of Religious Women, The Palestine Human Rights Information Centre and the Eighth Day Centre For Justice. Those persons accompanying the convoy to Iraq hope to complete their mission in Iraq and be present in Jerusalem by June 4, in time for the Peace Walk.

The Gulf Peace Team invites the people of Jordan to join them on June 7 at the bridge for the continuation of the Peace Walk. Anyone interested in joining the Peace Walk may

مكتبة الأصل

Hamas, Fateh battle in Nablus

(Continued from page 1)

beer brewing for weeks.

"It is a very dangerous and volatile situation," Kenaan, who has nationalist connections, told Reuters. "We have to separate the Hamas and Fateh supporters."

Kenaan spoke from his office, which was closed as part of an indefinite protest strike against the internal fighting. The strike abruptly shut down all business in the largest Palestinian city outside of Jerusalem.

A briefer clash took place last week. Differences had emerged over the PLO's endorsement of contacts between Palestinians and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Hamas, which seeks the elimination of Israel, opposed the meetings.

Visa cards for the dead

(Continued from page 1)

instructions given by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

Banking circles say the loss incurred by the treasury in the bank's liquidated process and the CBJ takeover in 1989 amounted to no less than JD 400 million. Over 50 per cent of this amount has been pumped in by the CBJ to keep the institution afloat before ordering its liquidation.

The court trials of nearly 45 people involved in the embezzlement of Petra Bank funds started last week soon after the completion of the public prosecutor's investigations into the case.

The government which froze all martial law provisions in early 1990 said that cases related to Petra Bank, once the second largest bank in the country, would still be handled by the Military Court.

Al Salem told the court in its third session Saturday, that he was appointed head of a special committee entrusted by the military prosecutor to conduct investigation into the embezzlement cases involving Petra Bank employees, and to determine the total amounts of funds that had been

Al Ra'i turns 20

(Continued from page 1)

years of service, said.

Al Ra'i's communist Khalid Mahadieh said that the newspaper was for all Jordanian and Arab, and that was the secret behind its success.

Another columnist, Ibrahim Sakkijha, said Al Ra'i's 20th birthday was day for all the press in Jordan. He recalled the establishment of the newspaper on June 2, 1971, when he was recalled by the foundation's former Director General Jumaa Hammad to contribute to developing the paper.

Al Ra'i's columnist Salah Abdul Samad called on the newspaper staff to exercise self-criticism, saying that constructive criticism was essential for the betterment of the work of editors, reporters and writers. Such criticism depends on proper assessment of their work, and their ability to see the gaps and shortcomings and to bridge them in future.

Badr Abdul Haq, a veteran columnist at Al Ra'i, voiced pride in what he termed as the

Kenaan said a joint statement resolving their differences, had been expected on Sunday. Instead the feud erupted into open battling in the Casbah, the Ottoman-era labyrinth of shops and homes in the heart of the city.

However, Kenaan described the fighting, which included the use of at least one submachine gun by Hamas, as mainly a product of teenage gang rivalries.

"The hatred between the two parties was always there," he said. "In the Casbah the differences were not political or religious. It was differences between teenagers."

Kenaan said: "Anyne from Hamas who sees anyone from Fateh on the street now will try to stab him — it is very dangerous."

Embezzlement.

He said that his task was vast that he had to look into records and documents before submitting a detailed report to the government.

Al Salem told the court that the 11-member committee he headed submitted a total of 106 reports which were later condensed into a 32-page report supported by various annexes.

The witness testified that Petra Bank lacked proper administrative divisions and job descriptions for each employee, especially those authorized to sign documents, cheques etc. He said that the bank lacked proper security and safety measures applied at other Jordanian banks.

According to the witness, it was difficult to determine the exact number of daily procedures and actions which involved fraud, largely because many of the documents had been destroyed or had disappeared.

He said that Petra Bank used to give credit facilities far exceeding funds deposited by the clients in violation of CBJ regulations and that many loans were given to financially-troubled companies and other businesses.

The irresistible surge from the south:**Worsening North-South inequalities will intensify the migratory flow toward Europe**

ILO feature

THE concept of the "North-South gap," like so many other clichés, has become so commonplace as to obscure the risks of upheaval inherent in the imbalances that it sets out to portray.

The people of the North tend to think that the South is far away and the threat is not imminent.

What if the gap were at their dinner table and the explosion already programmed? This is exactly the situation in which the European countries bordering the north shore of the Mediterranean find themselves, confronting the strong demographic pressure from countries situated on the other shore.

According to a study recently published by the ILO, the countries of the southern shore and Turkey, which contained only one-third of the population of the Mediterranean basin in 1950, today account for more than half and will constitute two-thirds in 2025. Their 62 million inhabitants in 1950 had increased to 165 million in 1990 and will reach more than 285 million in 2025.

"The highest per capita GNP of these countries of the South — Algeria with \$2,680 — is only two-thirds of the lowest GNP of the other group, Greece with \$4,020. At the other extreme, per capita income in France, whose level is the highest among the four EEC countries mentioned, is more than 20 times higher than the lowest of the other group, Morocco with \$620. The average gap between the per capita GNP of these two groups has moreover continued to widen, rising from \$1,500 in 1970 to nearly \$7,000 in 1987.

Although unemployment in Europe is stabilising — if at high levels — it has considerably increased in countries such as Algeria, where the rate went from 13.7 per cent in 1984 to nearly 23 per cent in 1987. The proportion of young people under 25 years of age among the unemployed is high throughout the south, notably in Algeria (80 per cent) and in Morocco (71.8 per cent).

It is, however, in demographic terms that the disparities between the Mediterranean's North and South are the most striking.

The European countries report an overall slowing down of their population growth, to 3 per cent between 1980 and 1990 against 8 per cent during the preceding decade. This trend will be accentuated in coming years, the rate even becoming negative in some cases, for example in Italy. Ageing will rapidly advance, with the average proportion of people over 65 increasing from 8 per cent in 1950 to 12 per cent in 1990 and reaching 18 per cent in 2025. The decline in the rate of growth of the active population, already noticeable in the 1980s, will lead to a fall in its absolute numbers in practically all these countries from 2010. The foreseeable manpower shortage will be all the more serious because of a drop in activity rates perceptible in all these countries, from 43 per cent

on average in 1950 to 40 per cent in 1980.

The countries of the southern Mediterranean basin are, in contrast, experiencing an unprecedented demographic explosion, provoked by high fertility together with a noticeable drop in mortality. These countries have recorded, in the space of some 20 years, an increase equal to nearly half of their population; by the year 2025 the increase is expected to be of the order of two-thirds as the total population of the Mediterranean basin reaches a forecast 442 million.

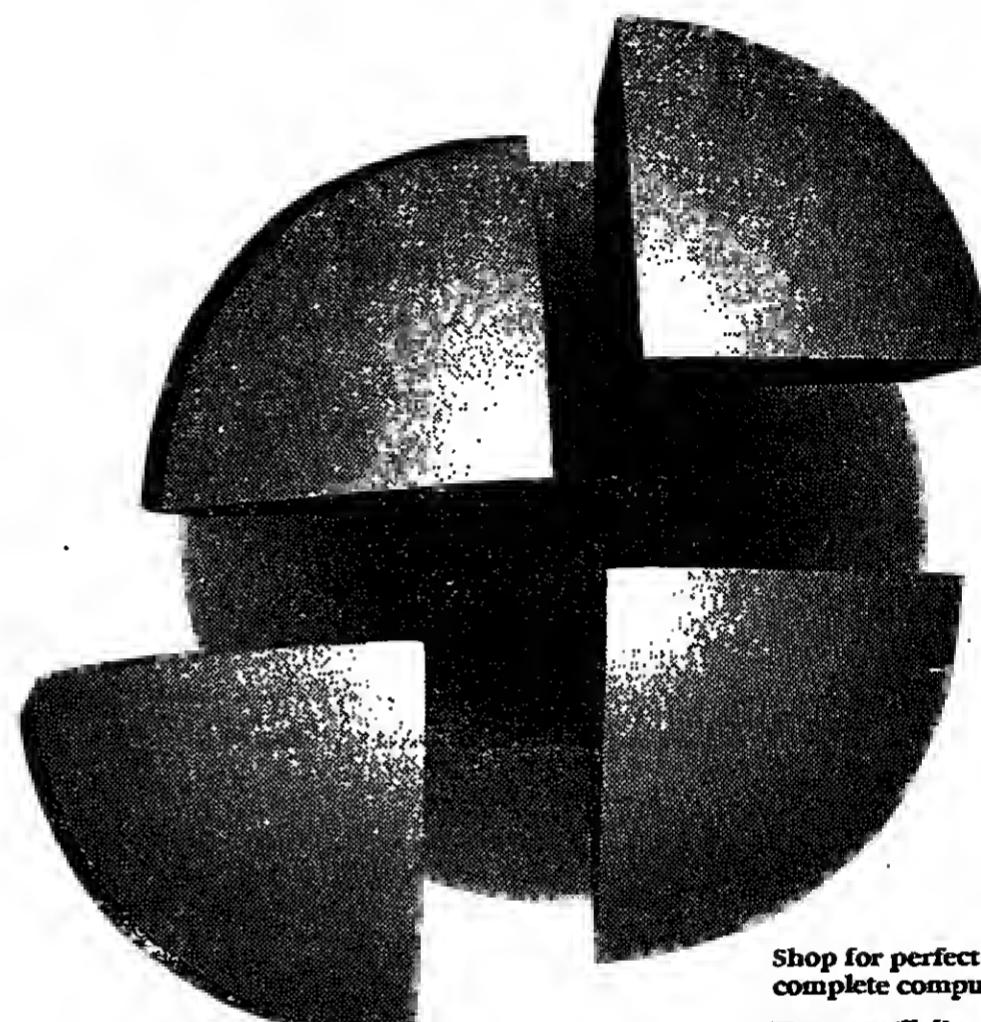
The changes in the age structure are no less significant: in 1990, the under-14 youngsters represented 40 per cent of the whole population and in the years to come the proportion of the active population (15-64 years) will continue to increase and should represent more than two-thirds of the total population in the year 2025.

Moreover, there is a trend towards an increased rate of activity in the countries of the South and Turkey the problem will be that of satisfying an active population weak but steadily rising female participation: the rate of activity of women in Algeria is expected to rise from 3.5 per cent in 1980

to 5.5 per cent in the year 2000, and to 11 per cent in 2025, and the comparable rate in Tunisia is forecast to rise from 12.6 to 18 then to 19 per cent.

While in the four member countries of the EEC, rates of employment should increase even more rapidly as a result of economic growth, as manpower resources stagnate or even decline, in the countries of the South and Turkey the problem will be that of satisfying an active population which will double in volume in an economic context which will become even less favourable with the loss of an enormous number of jobs in certain sectors which were major users of manpower in the early 1960s, the ILO study states.

Everything indicates that the EEC countries will experience serious manpower shortages on the threshold of 2025 or even earlier, while in the South, the service sector will not be in a position to absorb the surplus of active workers released by agriculture and industry at the height of restructuring. These imbalances constitute an irresistible impulse for South-North migration in multiple forms, concludes the study.

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Taylor, Norris retain titles

PALM SPRINGS, California (R) — Meldrick Taylor won a split decision, while Terry Norris powered his way to a knockout victory as the champions retained their respective world titles Saturday.

Taylor successfully defended his World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight crown in his first defense by taking a split decision over previously unbeaten Luis Garcia of Venezuela.

Taylor improved his record to 27-1, while Garcia suffered his first defeat after 22 victories.

Norris knocked out Donald Curry in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-round bout to retain his world boxing council (WBC) super welterweight crown.

Curry said after the fight he was retiring from boxing — the second successive opponent of Norris's to call it quits after being beaten. In his last fight, Norris won a decision over Sugar Ray Leonard, who said he was retiring

from the ring.

Curry is a former two-time world champion, having held the WBA welterweight title and the WBC super welterweight title.

"This is it for me," said Curry. "I'm going to let the other guys go on. I gave it my all but it's time for me to go."

Curry went down at the end of the seventh round after Norris landed a right to the chin and Curry was backing up.

In the eighth round Norris started out with a six-punch combination and then followed with two solid rights, the second one sending Curry to the canvas for good.

The victory improved Norris's record to 28-3 with 15 wins within the distance. Curry fell to 33-5.

Taylor, the former IBF junior welterweight champion, had to struggle to make weight in the last three weeks before this defense and he was far from sharp.

Acropolis Rally starts

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The 38th Acropolis motor rally, one of Europe's toughest, got underway Sunday as 94 cars roared away from the starting line at the foot of the ancient Acropolis Hill.

The four-day event covers 1,776 kilometers and includes 48 special stages over rocky mountain tracks, goat paths and some asphalt roads, that tests cars and drivers to their limit.

Half the cars are not expected to finish the grueling event. Last

year 97 cars started and only 34 managed to finish.

Spain's Carlos Sainz in a Toyota Celica Turbo 4WD, last year's winner and 1990 driving champion, is favoured to win the Acropolis rally, but faces tough competition from other drivers with more experience in Greece.

Sainz currently leads the drivers' championship with 60 points in five events and Toyota leads the manufacturers' standings with 77 points after four rounds.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
+ K 6

+ Q 9 7 6 5 2

+ A Q 8 3

+ 6

WEST EAST
+ Q J 10 8 4 + 9 7 5 3 2

+ J 10 8 4 3

+ 2 10 6 4

+ Q J 9 + Q 10 7 4

SOUTH
+ 4

+ A K

+ K 9 7 5

+ A 8 5 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West

1 Pass 2 1 Pass

3 Pass 3 1 Pass

4 Pass 4 1 Pass

4 1 Pass 5 1 Pass

6 1 Pass 7 1 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♦

Bridge Today's One Thousand

and One Bridge Problems Workbook, by Frank Stewart (Granovetter Books, 18 Village View Bluff, Baldwin Lake, N.Y. 12018, paperback, \$14.95) leaves us with mixed feelings. By and large, the selection of material is excellent and anyone working through the book will receive an excellent bridge refresher course. Yet there are explanations missing here and there and some of the play hands are not very instructive.

tive and overly difficult.

For example, no bidding is given on this hand, but it might have gone as shown above. Since three hearts would have shown support and would not have been a cue-bid, South had to initiate the cue-bidding sequence with three spades. Missing the ace-king of hearts and both black aces, North could not have jumped to slam later in the auction without at least second-round club control and good trumps, so South's grand-slam venture was a reasonable shot.

The easy way to come to all 13 tricks is via a dummy reversal-making dummy the master hand. But in the process declarer must prove his 4-1 heart split while taking care that a defender doesn't score a ruff.

Winning technique is to take the ace of spades, cash the king of trumps and, if both defenders follow, the king of hearts, then cross to the queen of trumps and discard the ace of hearts on the king of spades! After ruffing a heart high, go to the ace of diamonds and ruff another heart to set up the suit, cash the ace of clubs and get back to the board with a club ruff to claim the rest of the tricks.

A reasonable single-dummy problem, but the sort of hand that you can go through a bridge lifetime without ever encountering anything similar at the table.

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Graf and Agassi reach French Open quarterfinals

PARIS (AP) — Steffi Graf and Andre Agassi, two of the most overpowering players at the French Open thus far, advanced to the quarterfinals Sunday with impressive centre-court victories.

Michael Chang, the 10th seed and survivor of an emotional third-round match with Jimmy Connors, also moved into the quarterfinals. Unfazed by a partisan crowd for the second time, he wore down seventh-seeded Frenchman Guy Forget, 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3.

Graf, seeded second and yet to lose a set in four matches, rolled over Belgium's Sabine Appelmans, 6-2, 6-2 in 56 minutes.

"It wasn't such a tough match," she said.

Agassi, playing brilliantly in the quarterfinals.

Also advancing were no. 4 seed Mary Joe Fernandez, who won her toughest match of the week over South Africa's Elina Reinach, 6-4, 7-6, (7-2), and no. 5 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, who trounced American Tami Whitlinger, 6-2, 6-1.

Fernandez and Vicario will meet in the quarterfinals.

Both Graf, who became the first player to reach the quarterfinals, and Appelmans, ranked 27th in the world, had advanced to the fourth round without fac-

ing a seeded player.

Graf's toughest match by far was in first round against 16-year-old Magdalena Maleeva, one of three sisters on the women's tour. Graf was forced into a tiebreaker before winning 6-3, 7-6.

Graf, who could regain the world no. 1 ranking from Monica Seles with a championship here, dominated throughout her 56-minute match, hammering ground strokes deep into the corners.

Asked later if she felt sorry for overmatched opponents, she said, "I know quite a few players who have the ability to do more ... I can't feel sorry for them."

Graf won the tournament in 1987 and 1988, and said this week she is free of the allergy problems which troubled her here in each of the past two years.

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All eight of the women's fourth-round matches were on Sunday's schedule, including top-seeded Seles against unseeded Italian Sandra Cecchini and no. 3 Gabriela Sabatini against unseeded Rachel McQuillan of Australia.

The men's top seed, Stefan Edberg, was to play his fourth-round match Monday against unseeded Soviet Cherkasov. Other men's matches Monday included American Jim Courier against his unseeded practice partner, Todd Martin; 12th-seeded Stich of America against French teenager Fabrice Santor and France's Arnaud Boetsch against Argentina's Franco Davin, both unseeded.

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Suave Dancer sweeps to 4-length French Derby win

PARIS (R) — Suave Dancer produced one of the most impressive European classic performances for some years to win the Prix Du Jockey Club (French Derby) at Chantilly Sunday.

Confidently ridden by Cash Amsmussen, the colt took control 300 metres from home and swept

clear of his six opponents to win by four lengths.

Subotica, partnered by Thierry Jarret, finished second with Cudas, the mount of Freddie Head, one and half lengths away in third place.

The winner's task was made easier by the withdrawal earlier in

the day of Pistolet Bleu, one of his chief market rivals, with a muscle injury.

However, Suave Dancer won the 12-furlong (2.4 kilometres) event with such authority it was hard to envisage anything upsetting him.

Amsmussen said after achieving his first French Derby success: "Riding a horse this good was some experience and I think he is going to show even more in the future. He is a champion."

Justice, stable companion of Subotica, set a modest pace to sole English raider Luchiroverte, with Subotica in third.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Former Cosmos star pleads guilty

NEW YORK (AP) — Former New York Cosmos goalkeeper Shep Messing pleaded guilty to cheating clients of his investment firm out of thousands of dollars in a bogus investment scheme.

Messing faces five years in prison and \$250,000 in fines when he's sentenced by U.S. District Judge Thomas C. Platt on a date yet to be determined. In an indictment last October, federal prosecutors in Brooklyn accused the 41-year-old former soccer star of targeting professional athletes and cheating them out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Victims included former National Basketball Association players Darryl Dawkins, Kim Hughes, Mark Olberding, Ben Poquette and Al Skinner, prosecutors said. In a hearing before Platt, Messing pleaded guilty to a wire-fraud count and acknowledged that he illegally over-reported the value of investments he made for his clients.

Canadian soccer player banned

OTTAWA (AP) — The Canadian Soccer Association Friday banned former Canadian national team member John Fitzgerald for two years for testing positive for nandrolone, an anabolic steroid. The Soccer Association said Friday it had received the findings of the sport medicine council of Canada after it had tested Fitzgerald May 3. A subsequent second sampling May 27 supported the first finding. Fitzgerald, 22, was suspended from all soccer-related activity in Canada immediately after the initial test. Fitzgerald has a week to appeal the results of the test or the procedures of the council. He has one later appeal avenue, that to the CSA's Anti-Doping Disciplinary Committee. Fitzgerald played his first international May 13, 1985, as a member of Canada's national under-16 team. His most recent national team was May 13, 1990, when Canada faced Mexico in an exhibition at Burnaby, British Columbia.

Paraguayan player shoots himself in foot

ASUNCION (R) — A leading Paraguayan soccer player was recovering in hospital Friday after accidentally shooting himself in the foot just days before a big match. Striker Adriano Samaniego, due to play for Paraguayan Club Olympia against Colo Colo of Chile in Wednesday's Libertadores Cup final, underwent surgery

Friday following the incident in an Asuncion bar. Eye witnesses said Samaniego shot himself in the back of the foot with a pistol. "Fortunately the bullet did not hit a bone and it is possible he could recover in time for the game," Olympia doctor Cesar Santacruz, who performed the operation, said.

Harding knocks out Jennings

SURFERS PARADISE, Australia (AP) — Former World Boxing Council (WBC) light-heavyweight champion Jeff Harding of Australia scored a seventh-round technical knockout win over American Bobby Jennings in a 10-round non-title bout Sunday at Jupiter's Casino. Harding knocked Jennings to the canvas in the sixth round and again in the seventh with a right-left combination, prompting referee Allan Moore to halt the bout. Harding improved his record to 20-1. He is the no. 1 contender for the WBC title currently held by Dennis Andries. He beat Andries in Atlantic City to win the title, but then lost it to the Briton in Melbourne last year. The WBC has ruled Andries must defend his title against Harding before July 28. "This fight was the ideal warmup for the Andries fight," Harding said. "I was very rusty early on and certainly needed the work." Harding was cut over the left eye by an overhand right from Jennings in the first round. The American won the first two rounds but then lost his zip.

Maradona indicted on drug charge

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona was been indicted on charges of cocaine possession and ordered to stand trial, state television reported Sunday. Maradona was charged with possessing and giving away cocaine, RAI state television said. The indictment, issued by the Naples prosecutor, stems from an investigation into a suspected drug and prostitution ring in that city. Prosecutor Vittorio Sordone said in February that investigators have wiretapped phone conversations in which Maradona asks a woman, suspected of supplying prostitutes, for some women who were under investigation and for some "stuff," not better specified. Last month, an Argentine news agency reported that a federal judge who must decide whether to charge him with drug possession and distribution in connection with the raid has received a medical report indicating Maradona is addicted to cocaine.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JUNE 3, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although many persons are nervously trying to work all kinds of insidious and ingenious, inventive angles to gain their desires you will be able to stay on the right track, several steps ahead to them.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your own family expects a great deal of you and now have the chance to show them you are willing to do what will bring harmony to



New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Weekly F.X. Market Summary (May 27 — May 31, 1991)

THE U.S. dollar moved lower in mostly technical trading early last week, as the market awaited the release of new economic data to add direction to trading activity. But lack of follow-through selling in mid-week combined with the release of positive U.S. economic data for April and May at the end of the week to lift the dollar to substantially higher levels than those attained at the end of the previous week.

The dollar traded lower in the Far East Monday, dropping below support at (1.70) marks, as sentiment for the German currency continued to be positive, and expectations of a continued mark rally prevailed. But lack of follow-through selling due to the absence of U.K. and U.S. dealers on official holidays put a floor under the dollar.

A brief dollar rally took place in Tokyo and Europe Tuesday.

As the yen/dollar rate remained stuck in a tight range, its downward potential limited by fear of Bank of Japan intervention, and its upside restricted by exporter selling, the mark's failure to breach (81.5) yen caused EMS currencies to drop against the dollar as dealers liquidated long mark positions.

Later in New York, however, the dollar's failure to breach resistance at (1.725) marks, and the release of the Consumer Confidence Index for May in the U.S. to reveal a drop for the second month in a row caused a sharp dollar decline. The U.S. currency closed at its lowest levels for the week at (1.6930/40) marks, (137.43/48) yen and at (1.7480/90) dollars to the sterling pound.

The dollar rallied again Wednesday, however, after failing to drop below support at (1.69) marks. The release of 1st quarter GNP figures in the U.S. to show a drop of (2.6%), revised from (2.8%) drop released earlier, came within market expectations and had no effect on exchange rate levels. Observers maintained that these figures represented past events and did not provide any insights as to the future direction of the U.S. economy.

The Wednesday rally continued Thursday, after the mark failed to breach resistance at (81.5) yen for the second time in a row. With the Japanese currency remaining below (138) yen, EMS currencies declined further against the dollar, as the market awaited the release of a batch of U.S. economic indicators the next day.

Friday witnessed a strong dollar rally, as bullish sentiment about the direction of the U.S. economy returned. The bullishness was inspired by the release of three positive economic reports, including April's leading Indicators, which rose by (0.6%), while the market had expected a (0.4%) rise, and factory orders for April, which showed improvement for the first time in six months, rising by (1.8%). Furthermore, the Chicago Purchasing Managers Index, which reflects conditions in 200 industrial businesses, rose sharply to (47.7%) in May, from (42.1%) the previous month, and was interpreted as a proxy to the National Purchasing Managers Index due to be released this week. With dollar bullishness reassessing itself, the U.S. currency rose to close in New York at its highest levels for the week. Meanwhile, the mark dropped to (79.40) yen, from (81.17) yen at the end of the previous week, while sterling, handicapped by expectations of lower interest rates in Britain, dropped from (239.97) yen to (234.85) yen during the same period.

The dollar is expected to rise further in the short run, particularly if U.S. employment figures for May, due to be released next week, confirm a U.S. economic rebound.

U.S. transfers \$115m to Egypt

WASHINGTON (USA) — The United States has transferred \$115 million to Egypt to support the Cairo government's economic reform programme, announced the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in a press release.

The aid agreement was signed in Cairo last week by U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner, Mr. Marshall Brown, mission director for the USAID; and Dr. Maurice Makramallah, Egypt's minister for international cooperation.

According to USAID, the funds will support Egyptian government efforts to promote a market economy and end inefficient public sector subsidies. They will also finance imports from the United States and repay non-military Egyptian debts to the United States and the World Bank.

Egypt currently lacks sufficient foreign exchange to repay its external debts and import the goods and services needed to revitalise its economy.

Earlier this year, Congress specified that some of the economic assistance provided annually to Egypt could be transferred in case the Cairo government undertook significant economic reforms beyond those of previous years. The cash transfer programme began in 1984.

Poehl cautions EC against rushing into full economic union

LONDON (R) — German Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl has warned the European Community (EC) against rushing into monetary union before national economies followed similar lines.

Mr. Poehl, speaking at a conference in London on EC Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), underscored Britain's concern that the outlook was poor for a convergence of inflation within the 12-national trade bloc.

"Within the next two or three years, the chances of more convergence on inflation are small. On the contrary, there is both possible and necessary and we are grateful for all indications of goodwill and constructive intent on this subject."

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt, in remarks delivered at the conference by an adviser in his office, said no country could be forced to move to a common EC currency.

A senior British official, commenting on Mr. Lamont's speech, said Britain was not specifically accepting Mr. Delors's proposals at this time but acknowledged an agreement on EC monetary union could be reached by the end of 1991.

Mr. Lamont said a premature move to a single currency — before the European economies had converged — could cause a huge increase in Community spending to finance fiscal transfers to poorer regions.

Mr. Poehl, commenting on the future of a proposed EC central bank, said any attempts to limit the ability of a bank to pursue an independent monetary policy should be firmly resisted.

"International investors will be quick to spot the weak points in the ECBS's (European Central Bank System) defences against Community or government interference or temptation to yield to outside pressure," Mr. Poehl said.

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Tunisia expects no economic growth because of Gulf crisis

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia's foreign exchange reserves have sunk to a new low and the economy may register zero growth this year because of the Gulf crisis, Finance Minister Mohammad Ghannouchi has said.

Mr. Ghannouchi told Reuters in an interview that the reserves had fallen to \$350 million at the end of May.

He predicted the gross domestic product would remain unchanged and, unless tourism picked up, the balance of payments deficit for the year could reach \$650 million.

Mr. Ghannouchi said Tunisia had lost nearly \$500 million because of the Gulf crisis but had so far not received any aid from a United Nations fund created to help countries with economies hit by the crisis.

A fall in tourism, a major hard currency earner, and a trade embargo imposed on Iraq after its



Mohammad Ghannouchi

the year, mainly regarding foreign trade and agriculture.

During the first four months of 1991 exports had grown by 10 per cent over the same period in 1990 while imports had increased by five per cent.

Preliminary forecasts pointed to a better-than-expected harvest, Mr. Ghannouchi added.

Agricultural experts say that, thanks to abundant rainfall throughout the farming season the cereal crop should be above last season's 1.6 million tonnes, or one-tenth more than the annual average.

The balance of payments deficit predicted by Mr. Ghannouchi would still be better than initial forecasts at the beginning of the year which put the deficit between \$750 million and \$900 million. Last year's deficit was \$400 million.

Steps taken in time by the government, mainly boosting ex-

ports efforts, enabled us to partially attenuate the effects of the crisis," Mr. Ghannouchi said.

The slump in tourism is the main cause of the bigger deficit, with revenues expected to decline by 40 per cent from last year's nearly \$1 billion.

The minister said Tunisia may have to resort to International Monetary Fund (IMF) facilities and faster World Bank disbursements to support the structural adjustment programme implemented in Tunisia since 1986.

In an unusual move last year, Tunisia asked the IMF to reduce its \$275 million share in the fund by one third. Tunisia did not use IMF facilities in the past three years because its balance of payments was improving.

Mr. Ghannouchi said Tunisia had a "safety net" of \$600 million in financial aid programmes agreed by foreign government and international agencies.

France faces challenge on jobs as government trims growth forecast

PARIS (R) — The French government has cut its forecast for seasonal variations, shrank from 4.2 billion francs (\$730 million) in March.

France also benefited in April from a lower oil bill and higher food exports but ran another large deficit in trade in industrial goods of 4.61 billion francs (\$800 million).

Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy told the senate, the upper house of parliament, that growth could fall well short of the government's 1991 target of two per cent.

France flirted with recession in the first quarter of 1991, when output of goods and services was flat after shrinking by 0.2 per cent between October and December. Recessions is generally defined as two consecutive quarters of falling output.

"I tell you frankly, unless there is a stronger than expected recovery in the United States, we will be hard pressed to bave growth over the year of over 1.5 per cent," Mr. Bérégovoy said.

He said France was suffering from a slowdown in Europe, except for West Germany, and the failure of the United States to pull smartly out of a recession induced by the Gulf crisis.

A slump in U.S. demand for imports caused France's trade deficit with the U.S. to surge to 5.5 billion francs (\$950 million) in April from 3.87 billion (\$670 million) in March, the customs office has said.

But, thanks in part to its first trade surplus in recent times with Germany, thirsty for imports after unification, France managed to halve its overall trade deficit in April to 2.07 billion francs (\$360 million).

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Currency	24/5/1991		31/5/1991	
	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)	1-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.68	6.43	5.81	6.43
Sterling Pound	11.62	10.93	11.43	10.93
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.93	8.75	9.00
Swiss Franc	8.00	7.75	7.87	7.65
French Franc	9.12	9.06	9.25	9.18
Japanese Yen	7.87	7.40	7.81	7.51

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 2/6/1991		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1565	1.1623
Deutsche Mark	.3911	.3931
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen*	.4921	.4946
Dutch Guilder	.3473	.3490
Swedish Krona	.1098	.1103
Italian Lira*	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01900	.01910

*Per 100

CONCORD
Cinema
Tel: 677420
SENIOR WEEK
Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m. 10:30

NIJOM
Cinema
Tel: 675571
Adel Imam
in
DANGEROUS RECORDER
Arabic
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA
Cinema
Tel: 634144
TWO MOON JUNCTION
Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.
RAINBOW
Cinema
Tel: 625155
Laila Alawi
in
THE INTOXICATED
Arabic
Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

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NATO changing course, but France is on different tack

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, expected to chart a new political course for the post-cold war era at a meeting of foreign ministers this week, is struggling to convince France that it should come on board for the sake of Western unity.

NATO sources say France, which resents U.S. leadership of the 16-nation alliance and left its military structure in 1966, is looking increasingly isolated as the foreign ministers prepare for two days of talks in Copenhagen.

There are several key areas of disagreement, which all go to the heart of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) role in the new European order. Paris is reluctant to extend NATO's responsibilities beyond that of defending the West from what remains of Soviet military power.

France is arguing about how far to extend contacts with NATO's former cold war enemies, how Western Europe should develop a more independent and stronger defence identity and the shape of the alliance's new strategy.

"Those also happen to be the

three main issues for Copenhagen, so you can expect some fairly plain speaking," said a NATO source who asked not to be identified.

Time is pressing. NATO leaders will hold a summit later this year, probably in Rome in November, to approve a blueprint for keeping the alliance healthy into the 21st century.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner echoed the view of many allied nations when he said last week that closer cooperation with France would be welcome.

But France is unhappy about a proposal to extend contacts between NATO and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union.

Most NATO allies, led by the United States, want the foreign ministers' meeting Thursday and Friday to approve a package of measures that would bring the alliance closer to its former enemies, to give them a greater sense of security.

These would include more high-ranking political visits in

both directions and more consultations on security issues.

The alliance agreed last year to offer diplomatic contacts with those countries and government ministers from all Warsaw Pact nations have since visited NATO headquarters.

But France does not want NATO to go any further, saying that such measures should be left to individual countries and the 34-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

"It's not clear yet just what kind of package we will have at Copenhagen, since we need the agreement of all 16 allies to go ahead," said another NATO source.

NATO's review of its strategy for the post-cold war era has also caused problems. France decided to join this a few months ago, saying that the document did not deal only with military affairs but also with political questions.

Although NATO officials have welcomed their participation and say the French have not been obstructive, Paris does have objections to some elements of

the proposed strategy — particularly in the area of nuclear weapons.

"I do have reservations about (NATO's) political strategy," President Francois Mitterrand said last week.

The French also want to see a stronger European defence identity created within the 12-nation European Community.

Washington and most of its allies are opposed to this, because they say it could undermine the trans-Atlantic link at the heart of NATO. They would welcome stronger European defences, but only within the framework of NATO.

Mitterrand was sceptical about NATO's creation last week of a new military force structure, including "rapid reaction" units to face potential threats in the post-cold war era.

He said this could preempt France's ambitions to create a defence identity for the European Community and stressed that his country would have nothing to do with such a force, since France plays no part in NATO's military structures.

9 killed in S. African township violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Masked gunmen sprayed bullets and hacked three people to death after bursting into a house in South Africa's Natal province, police said Sunday.

The three members of a family in the township of Ngwanezane were among nine people killed in faction fighting overnight, they said.

All three were well-known members of the African National Congress, the ANC said in a statement.

The ANC has been the target of repeated attacks in recent months by members of Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party. Ngwanezane is an ANC stronghold.

Two men were killed by a hand grenade being handled by one of them in Alexandra township, north of Johannesburg.

Two bodies with bullet and stab wounds were found in Alexandra and two men were killed in Katlehong township, east of Johannesburg.

About 2,000 people have been killed in the last nine months of township fighting.

The ANC broke off power-sharing talks with President F.W. De Klerk last month saying the government was not doing enough to halt the township wars. It accused police of siding with Inkatha.

Police said eight black squatters, including a pregnant woman, were injured by a group of white pro-apartheid rightists at a squatter camp in school premises at Germiston, east of Johannesburg, Sunday morning.

Squatters told reporters the group of men arrived in 20 cars at the camp in a white suburb, smashed windows, hit people with gun-belts and whips and promised to return.

Pro-apartheid rightists are resisting government reforms to open all residential areas to all races. Civil rights groups say South Africa has more than eight million homeless blacks.

The South African government Sunday expressed outrage at the burning of an effigy of De Klerk by anti-apartheid protesters.

The government's relations with the ANC have already stretched to breaking point over 103 political prisoners who have spent a month on a hunger strike.

whether (it) also has the approval of the ANC's Deputy President Nelson Mandela," Constitutional Development Minister Gerrit Viljoen said in a statement.

"This kind of inciting behaviour places a large question mark over the serious intent and sincerity of ANC leaders towards the fight against violence and intimidation, as well as their seriousness towards creating a climate in which sincere and credible constitutional negotiations can be conducted," he added.

The burning of the effigy Friday was carried out by ANC marchers led by Mandela and Communist leader Joe Slovo.

They also burnt a cardboard coffin decorated with the South African colours of orange, white and blue and with large photographs of De Klerk and his predecessors, P.W. Botha, John Vorster and Hendrik Verwoerd.

The government's relations with the ANC have already stretched to breaking point over 103 political prisoners who have spent a month on a hunger strike.

Huge crowd greets Pope on 2nd day of Polish tour

RZESZOW, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul, on his first visit to democratic Poland, received the biggest welcome of his tour Sunday from a huge crowd in the heart of rural Poland where the farmers' Solidarity union was born.

The Pope, who began his nine-day visit speaking of his joy at the fall of East European communism, was greeted by an ocean of yellow-and-white Papal flags as he drove into Rzeszow in an open "popemobile."

The estimated turnout of 600,000 in the south-eastern city appeared to lay to rest fears that the Pope's fourth visit to his homeland would arouse less enthusiasm than previous visits when he symbolised Poland's struggle against communism.

His visits in 1979, 1983 and 1987 encouraged Poles in the fight against communism and his masses drew millions. On Saturday less than half the expected 500,000 people attended the first mass of tour amid wind and rain in the north-western city of Koszalin.

Morale has fallen in the overwhelmingly Catholic nation as hopes for quick prosperity under democracy have evaporated. The Solidarity government faces protests against its economic policies.

The church's popularity has also slumped amid charges that it is trying to impose its beliefs on the new democratic state.

Before flying across Poland to Rzeszow, the Pope told a field mass for 30,000 soldiers near Koszalin that the army was returning to its true role as defender of the fatherland under democracy.

He pointedly compared the army's victory over the Red Army in 1920 with the Battle of Vienna in 1683 at which the Polish King Jan Sobieski turned back a Turkish invasion of Europe.

Poles traditionally revere the army, the army, but it was hated after imposing martial law in 1981 to crush the Solidarity trade union.

Streicher's statement said the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority had not taken any steps to suspend flights of aircraft with similar engines. But it said all Austrian operators had been ordered to carefully investigate such engines for faults.

Slovenia swears in first troops in move to statehood

IG, Yugoslavia (R) — Slovenia swore in its first regular troops Sunday in a move underlining its determination to leave Yugoslavia and become an independent state this month.

Two hundred recruits took part in a simple ceremony at a territorial defence training centre in Ig, a small village near the Slovenian capital Ljubljana. A similar ceremony with 1,200 recruits was held near Maribor, close to the Austrian border.

The recruits, teenagers wearing camouflage uniforms and brimmed caps, took an oath to defend Slovenia's independence and territorial integrity. Families and girlfriends looked on.

They were the first conscripts designated to serve in the republic of Slovenia's armed forces rather than the Yugoslav army.

Slovenia, which borders Italy, Austria and Hungary, has transformed its territorial defence or home guard into the nucleus of a national army prior to breaking

with Yugoslavia.

"This is a great moment for you who take the oath and a great moment for our homeland," said Janez Slapar, a commander of the force. Slovenia has never been an independent state and these are the first troops it has ever had.

Slovenia plans to proclaim independence on June 26 and neighbouring Croatia says it will follow suit four days later.

Yugoslavia, a multi-ethnic federation of 23.5 million people living in six republics and two provinces, is sliding towards disintegration because of the inability of its leaders to agree on the future shape of the country.

Croatia swore in its first army units Tuesday in a grandiose ceremony steeped in national symbols, flags, heraldry, folklore, elaborate costumes and heroic rhetoric.

The Slovenian ceremony was sparse by contrast, with only a few flags, folk songs and a speech from Slovenia's president.

Computer fault could have caused Lauda air crash

VIENNA (R) — A computer fault which turned one engine into reverse could have caused the crash of a Boeing airliner in Thailand a week ago, Austrian Transport Minister Rudolf Streicher said Sunday.

The Lauda Air Boeing 767-300 crashed shortly after takeoff from Bangkok last Sunday, killing all 223 people on board.

An official statement from Streicher said a cockpit voice recording being analysed in

Washington indicated that the pilots were trying to repair the fault when the plane crashed.

"... It can be concluded that one of the two engines that were computer controlled during ascent was suddenly switched to reverse," the statement said.

"The pilots tried to solve this totally unforeseen problem with the aid of the flight manual, but were unable to do so.

"The plane became unprintable, stalled and broke apart."

The statement said a thorough investigation of both engines recovered from the plane had begun immediately after the voice recording had been deciphered.

The flight data recorder from the plane had been so badly damaged that investigators had been unable to elicit any significant data from it.

Streicher's statement said the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority had not taken any steps to suspend flights of aircraft with similar engines. But it said all Austrian operators had been ordered to carefully investigate such engines for faults.

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S. Korean students clash with police

SEOUL (R) — Thousands of South Korean students and workers hurled petrol bombs and rocks at police in Seoul and Pusan Sunday in violent anti-government protests.

In Kwangju, high school student Kim Chol-Soo, died in hospital two weeks after setting himself on fire. He was the ninth anti-government protester to commit suicide since police beat student Kang Kyung-Dae to death on April 2b.

In Seoul, riot police fired tear-gas shells from armoured vans at a crowd of nearly 10,000 students and workers staging a sit-down rally at an intersection in the heart of the capital.

Chanting slogans, the protesters denounced the government of President Roh Tae-Woo for "murderous" crackdowns on student protests and the labour movement.

They threw petrol bombs at riot police on the main roads, which had painted in red with the legend: "Murderous politics, terror politics — Roh Tae-Woo."

Savimbi outlined his vision for a democratic Angola, saying the new political system should give strong powers to a head of state elected for a five-year term. He said the president should serve a maximum of two terms.

The guerrilla chief said he will return to the Angolan capital of Luanda in early July to conduct UNITA's election campaign.

Savimbi started his guerrilla struggle in 1966 against Portuguese colonial rule in Angola.

After independence in 1975 he fought the pro-Soviet Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, or MPLA, which gained power.

Savimbi dismissed speculation other groups could emerge in Angola to challenge both warring factions in next year's elections.

"The MPLA has a possibility to win, UNITA too, but a third force, no."

Tribal divisions that have brought conflicts to other African nations will not be a major factor in the Angolan election campaign, Savimbi said.

He said a future UNITA government will pay back external debts incurred by the MPLA administration. Much of the estimated \$6.5-billion foreign debt is with the Soviet Union, which supplied the government with arms to fight the civil war.

The protest was smaller than one last year, when at least 80,000 staged a similar march.

Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed when the Chinese army suppressed the Democracy Movement in 1989. Many more were arrested and jailed without trial throughout China in 1997.

China has labeled the alliance as "counterrevolutionary," for its alleged role in helping dissidents escape China.

The crackdown in China triggered international condemnation and residents here were particularly concerned because the territory reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The protest was smaller than one last year, when at least 80,000 staged a similar march.

After leaving Lisbon Sunday, Savimbi was scheduled to travel to the northern Portuguese city of Oporto for meetings with business leaders.

He said he will no longer discourage international investment in Angola, potentially one of Africa's richest nations.

The fighters were among more than 30,000 protesters, mostly students, who had held a three-day campus rally to commemorate the anniversary of the National Student Alliance Chon-dae-hyop.

Riot police countered with barrels of tear gas shells to prevent protesters reaching streets in the centre of the port for a planned anti-government gathering.

The coalition forces had split their six seats between Sihanouk's group and the two other

coalitions in the coalition — the Khmer People's National Liberation Front under former Prime Minister Son Sane and the notorious Khmer Rouge, the strongest of the three rebel groups.



Jonas Savimbi

Rebel chief to step down if defeated in polls

LISBON (AP) — Rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said Sunday he will step down as head of the rebel movement he created 25 years ago if he loses in Angola's first free elections planned for the fall of 1992.

"If I lose I will ask to be replaced by someone younger," said the 56-year-old Savimbi. "I cannot be in opposition. I will step down."

Savimbi spoke to journalists in the Portuguese capital two days after signing peace accords with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos to end their 16-year civil war.

He said he was confident that his National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, or UNITA, will win the elections and that he will become the southern African nation's first freely-elected president.

Savimbi outlined his vision for a democratic Angola, saying the new political system should give strong powers to a head of state elected for a five-year term. He said the president should serve a maximum of two terms.

He said he will no longer discourage international investment in Angola, potentially one of Africa's richest nations.

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Georgia offers to mediate between Armenians, Azerbaijanis

MOSCOW (R) — Georgia has offered to mediate between its quarrelling Transcaucasian neighbours Armenia and Azerbaijan and proposed a summit between the three Soviet republics.

A statement signed by newly-elected President Zviad Gamsakhurdia blamed the Kremlin for the bloodshed of recent weeks. Armenia says more than 50 people have died while Azerbaijan puts the death toll somewhat lower.

The statement, issued through the Georgian News Agency Iveria, said both sides must realize that stability in the region would do much to help the republics achieve real sovereignty.

"The Georgian government is deeply convinced that the conflict between the two neighbouring peoples is entirely inspired by the Kremlin, acting on the notorious principle of 'divide and rule,'" it said.